

even a cross between papaya and mango that was developed in the laboratory but the fruit is tasteless. In addition there are other useful plants that included sago, Chinese tea, Indian tea, redwood (the largest tree in the world of today), American ash (the second largest), black pepper, tapiaco, papyrus, tamarind (usually sour but this one was sweet "like honey" and Baba said He used to have it with His breakfast), cocoa, coffee, rubber, maple, neem, camphor as well as a roof-top full of a brilliant collection of roses and tuberoses. Everything in the garden had some unique and fascinating aspect to it - that only He could reveal.

There was also a plant named after Acarya Divyananda Avadhuta who was the first Acarya to commit self-immolation when Baba was in prison. Similarly another plant was named after an Avadhuta who was beaten to death while in prison during the Emergency in India. The deep Love that He has for all the plants becomes readily apparent once He is talking about them and moving among them in the garden. Every plant has a Sanskrit name given by Him.

While He is explaining about the plants that special exchange of intimacy is being carried out between the Lord and the devotee and although there are other people present it feels that the Lord is only there for the devotee. He fills the hours with not only information, but also with amusing stories.

There is a selection of carnivorous plants there and He explained that in "deep, dark Africa" there is a carnivorous plant that, should one of us fall into it, could eat us up. He went on to say that He did not have that particular plant in His garden for two reasons. The first was that whoever was bringing the plant from Africa to India may be eaten up en route. So not only would the plant fail to arrive but one of His workers would have been eaten. The second reason was that suppose the plant arrived without mishap and was located in the corner of His garden. He would explain to all of us that we should not go to that part of the garden as there was something very

dangerous there. Then as soon as He would go away, "being naughty little boys", we would immediately go to that part of the garden to see what was so dangerous. Then suppose some of us were eaten, Margiis from our Sector would write letters to Centre asking what had happened to their Dada. They would say that the last thing they heard about their Dada was that he was visiting Baba's garden and they have not heard from him since. Baba went on to explain what a terrible position this would leave Him in - so for these two reasons He did not have that plant in His garden. He asked us what we thought - we all agreed with Him very unanimously and enthusiastically!

Baba explained a lot about the ages the earth had passed through and when we came to the museum with all its fossils, He explained in more details the flora and fauna that existed during the different ages. It was quite an overwhelming amount of knowledge - we could not write fast enough to keep up! The fossils are very old - some of them hundreds of millions of years, and are of a wide variety of creatures including the predecessor of elephants (mammoth), crocodile, lion, jackal, cat, owl, ape, dog, tiger, rhinoceros, snakes, birds, dinosaur, hippopotamus, as well as human beings. In talking about the fish, He asked us what was the plural of the word "fish". We were unsure (again) so He went on to explain that when the fish are all of the same variety, the plural is "fish" and when they are of more than one variety, the plural is "fishes". At this stage He also tested us on the grammar He had already explained earlier on.

We then proceeded upstairs to see the museum there. In one room there are finely-made model figures depicting different episodes in the life of Shiva. These are very beautiful and stretch around the room in a number of glass display panels. Above these, in the same room, are a number of detailed paintings depicting episodes in the life of Krsna. These also cover the four walls of the room. In another section of the museum, there are more fossils and artefacts from

different parts of the world - including an emu egg from Australia which prompted Baba to explain about the emu. There are also goldfish and a very, very small species of turtle from Japan. In explaining about them, Baba said that they like to keep the company of the sadhus and as we were all fasting that day, they had also decided to fast!

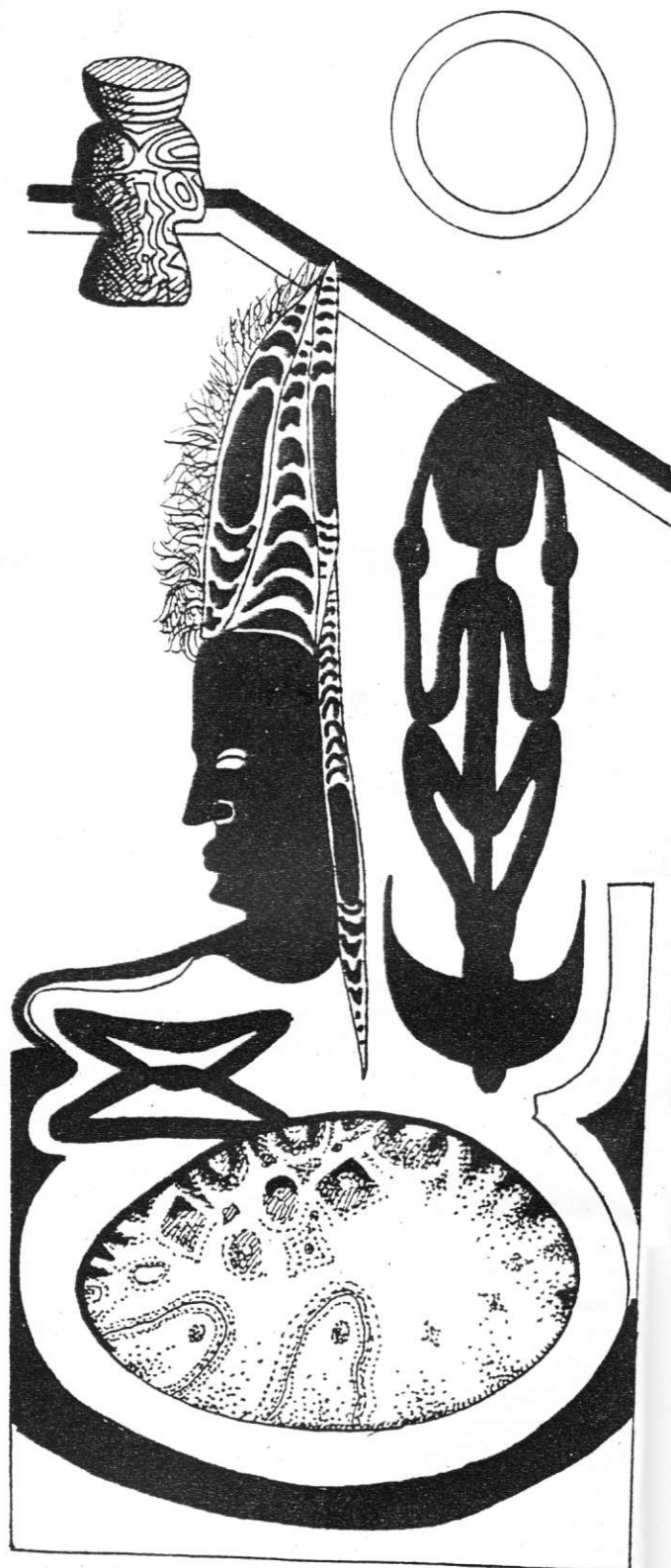
Included in the numerous artefacts was a rosary of very fine appearance that had been presented to the museum by a sister in Turkey. She had explained that the rosary had a curse - whoever owned it would die. Baba went on to explain that He had thought the best thing would be to keep it in the museum then everyone could appreciate its unique beauty and yet, as there was no owner, no one would run the risk of dying. He asked us what we thought of His decision and we all agreed it was the right one.

We then proceeded back downstairs and in the garden He pointed out a plant which He had given the name "Austrie Bandhu" which means "friend from Australia"!

Back at the front of the house Baba began to thank us for giving up our valuable time to join Him on this demonstration. He went on to say that He knew we were very busy and that He appreciated very much the time we had set aside from our busy schedule! Which is of course what we wanted to express to Him. He ended with a blissful Namaskar and commented that He did not know much about plants and things, but nevertheless He hoped we had picked up a little information from the experience!

Once He had returned to His room Baba asked for each of us to write our "impressions" of the experience. This we did quickly in a few sentences and each one was read to Him. He enjoyed very much to hear the various comments - sometimes asking them to be read again.

In this way we passed more than two hours in Divine company - enjoying the Love of our Father while He explained about so many expressions of His colourful creation. It was an unforgettable experience that will linger on and on - leaving us more and more indebted to Him and His Grace.



# Dharma Maha Cakra

Last night I watched Baba from a terrace opposite His room. He was silhouetted against the white wall - first His shadow, then Himself - like a sharp-edged photo. A crowd of us were there, singing Prabhat Samgiita, led by Didi Krsna. Today, all is peaceful and happy, orange flowers are everywhere in garlands, celebrating Baba's birthday. I have been sitting and watching Him, and cooing at Kaovita who was in Bhavanii's arms in front of me. When Baba finally left, the hall broke into a great kiirtan - avarta kiirtan, and, I broke into tears and uncontrollable longing. After kiirtan I did sadhana, but the longing became greater and greater flowing thru me in tingling, overwhelming waves. I sat weeping, trying to let go of the longing and feel Baba, but the longing took over and I plunged back, calling His name, screaming for Baba, wanting Baba, Baba, only Baba, for what seemed forever. At last it faded and I lay sobbing, unable to move or lift myself from the ground, finding myself being massaged and fanned by loving friends. After sometime of this people helped me up and I did sadhana to soothe and balance my weeping spirit.

But there was more to this trip than blissful darshans. This year many Margiis had come from all over the world to see Baba, and this year Baba had a lot in store for us. Because Baba reached out to ordinary Margiis organisationally, we underwent the rigours of writing many reports, of being given many preparatory talks explaining what was expected of us, and we were constantly on call in case Baba wanted us. For the first time I was able to personally experience the demanding pace that Baba works at, and to see the organisational side of His nature. It seems that now people who want more contact with Baba will get it through taking a sincere commitment to His Mission. By including Bhukti Pradhans in His reporting system He is encouraging people to become responsible, and He is speaking to us directly of His desire for

Margiis to set up projects. It reminded me of when He was in jail and at one point gave the simple message - DO SOMETHING. He wants Margiis in each unit to purchase jagrtis and land so that Ananda Marga can set up substantial projects such as schools, medical units and co-ops.

Baba's pace was exhausting and the pressure and tension built up and up with so many people together in the expectancy of seeing Baba. Late at night as I was fighting to keep awake after an exacting daily schedule of talks, classes, sadhana, meetings and darshan I would hear a microphone announcing Baba's next lot of meetings, and feel totally dumbfounded that He was still going when everyone else was ready to sleep. During meetings Baba was strict, demanding and specific, often asking questions which were very difficult to answer. But although He was organisationally scrupulous, in darshan He was warm and charming. On His birthday He appeared in a beautiful shining pink shirt and white dhoti. His talk was full of laughter and jokes with the Margiis, and the whole atmosphere was like one big family, laughing and loving Baba together. Who else but Baba can have you one minute concentrating till you would snap in reporting, and the next minute weeping and laughing from absolute bliss. It all happened there because the power and intensity of His influence was so strong. It seems that we are in the beginning of a new phase in Ananda Marga and at this DMC Baba generated a new energy, both spiritually and organisationally. Again the message from Him was clear that people must take a personal commitment and follow that through, be it as LFT, LPT, WT or family Margii.

Baba also gave Margii access to Him in another unexpected way. He asked for people to write in 100 words impressions of His Sunday darshan, of the new birthday Prabhat Samgiita, and of the overall experience of being there. These would be read to Him by his guard at night, when He

took His evening walk, and would provide a direct feedback from Margiis to Baba. What an opportunity! Immediately on hearing this I sat down and wrote Baba three poems, one on each topic. As I couldn't speak Bengali, the poem about the darshan was devotional, focusing on Baba's appearance (His pink shirt!) and engaging manner. The guard kindly gave them to Baba's nephew, who read them to Baba. Apparently on hearing them Baba laughed, and said it was obvious that I hadn't understood a word of His darshan, but "she is a great poet" (This was very generous of Baba - I realised later that the romantic one about darshan was written to the same humorous rhythm as the Three Little Pigs play).

We were very lucky during DMC. Although the weather was extremely hot, the pandal was equipped with fans which kept the air circulating, and overseas Margiis were generously given good seating at the front, so we had a clear and comfortable view of Baba. The music during DMC was beautiful, with Prabhat Samgiita playing continuously, and a long akhanda kiirtan which went day and night. There was continuous opportunity for Baba stories, with many senior Acaryas telling fascinating tales of times with Baba. Often you would bump into a huddle of Margiis grouped around some orange-robed figure, and quietly move in to hear more of Baba. One beautiful story I recall was of a young student who came to see Baba, not knowing who Baba was or what He is capable of. The Acarya who brought him along saw Baba stop and talk, and, when Baba moved on, saw the young man weeping. He asked what Baba had said. It seems that the man had a diary that he had kept since very young, which no one else had ever seen. Baba looked at the man and repeated to him a poem which the young man had written in it some years before - not only that - the poem had remained unfinished in the diary, but Baba completed it on this day by adding the last line.

Baba's Renaissance Universal talk created a furor. He foretold the possible coming of another ice-age, and the shifting of the magnetic poles of the earth, saying

that this could increase the level of people's spirituality but would change the structure of plant life, in fact all life on this earth would adapt and that to survive humanity would have to travel to different planets. It is interesting to note that the U.S. journal "Science" reports that our sun has been found to be fading at a rate of .02% a year - enough to imply visible climatic change over a few years and trigger a mini ice-age before another 100 years.

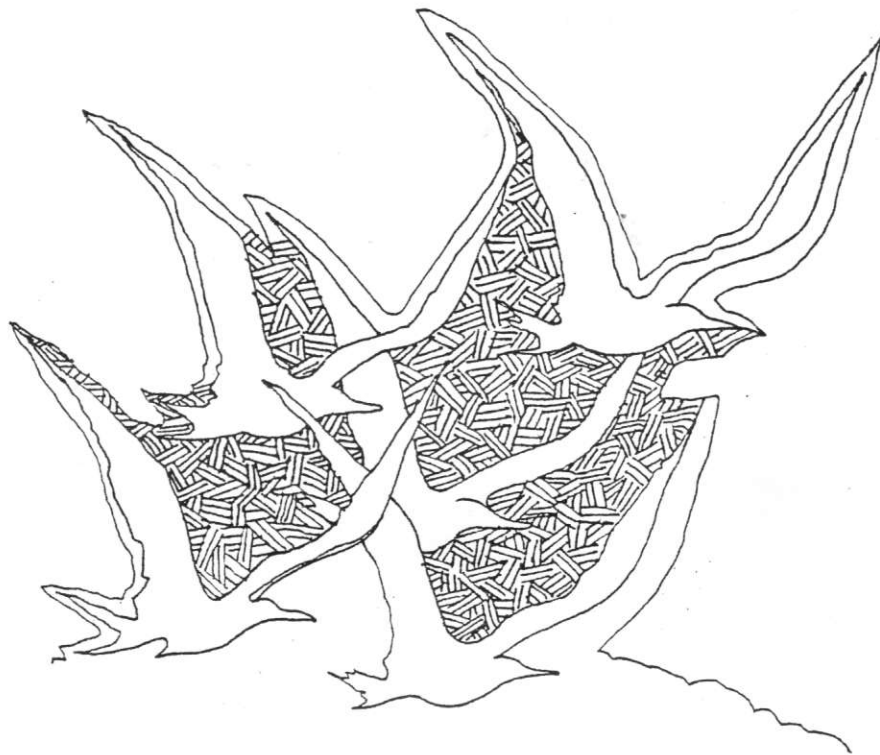
The incredible thing about Baba's talk was the calm detachment with which He referred to cataclysmic events, saying that change is the nature of existence.

This gentle but mysterious figure walked quietly from the stage leaving thousands in a fervour-sharing reactions to the talk, swapping ideas about who heard what, exchanging information and comparing the content of the talk with things seen, heard or read previously. Baba left us in a storm of discussion and speculation.

The next night was the night of the mudra. Baba's mood was no longer the esoteric aloofness of Parama Purusa. Baba became the personal, caring and irresistible Father that we all desire. Thousands of hearts wept to feel the love and concern that poured from Baba to us in His Kalyan Namastu blessing, a blessing indicating He wants us all to be happy, positive, and free of suffering and pain. As He raised His hands to deliver the mudra, a wave of energy swept through the crowd, and all the physical, emotional and organisational pressure which people had been under was released in an instant as people feeling the love, broke down and cried, called Baba's name, and broke into a joyous and reverent kiirtan.

by Amali





## Puzzle Me Not

At times it feels this life is but a wander through mazes. Life is similar to a puzzle in that it has limited intrigue. It is sometimes felt while doing the organisational work Baba is asking of us. Like the puzzle there are various pieces to deal with and to find. There are CONTACTS to be made, RESOURCES to gather, SKILLS to develop, TIME to manage, ENERGY to utilize.

All of these aspects or "pieces to the puzzle" come to us at different times as it is a growing process. With time and patience the picture becomes more complete, more clear, as the "pieces" are discovered.

What ensures success? In doing the basic work Baba is outlining in order to propagate the ideology of A.M., it is essential to perform Adhyatma Yajina - Service to God. In other words whilst doing the work we remain absorbed totally in Baba's ideational flow. We are working to please Baba only. This is the devotee's purpose.

When this spiritual perspective is maintained we can hold fast to our determination, in order to complete the work but most importantly the work will be done with the sense of detachment. In the same way a person may become engrossed in solving the puzzle, a devotee will also try to the best of one's capacity to do the task Guru has given, thus losing oneself in the process. Although there is a short term goal to achieve success in the task, the devotee remembers firstly that the eternal goal is enmeshed in everything. Paramapurus'a is the eternal goal of life, the puzzle is but to help us realize.

Try to think of Baba in every moment. Make more sacrifice in your personal lives for Him. The puzzling process with all of its pain and joy will become One endless stream of Bliss.

- Brcii. Radha Ac.



I come to You  
in the summer heat  
The flowers of my heart  
all scorching and dry  
I am wilting  
with the garden  
of my soul.

I take the parched  
and withered flowers  
plucking them  
with shaking hands  
from the dying garden  
of my heart.

My face flushes red  
as I extend my palms  
filled with the remnants  
of a spring love.

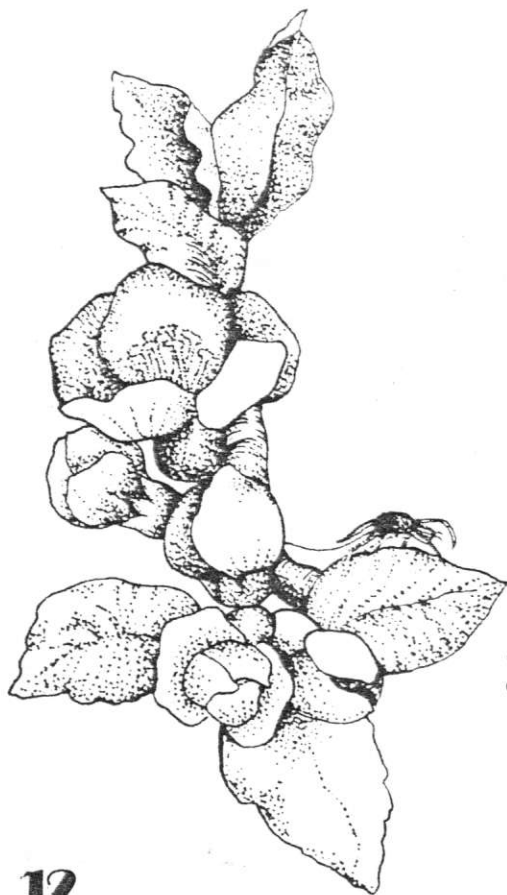
Long awaited  
a tear of love  
slips down my cheeks  
and falls upon  
the crumpled flowers  
of my heart  
And upon a summer breeze  
a fragrance comes to life.

My palms open up  
like the skies open up  
with the monsoon rains  
spilling petals of love  
at Your feet.

One thousand  
spring buds  
glint and play  
beneath the sun's rays  
fresh and new  
damp  
with the spring rains.

I breathe  
a spring breath  
of love.

Jayanti.



# More Than A Dream

Now it is time to go to sleep.  
My Lord let my head lay on Thy lap .....  
feeling and thinking of you until I fall  
asleep. Let me dream of you ..... walking  
beside you, holding your loving hands,  
talking to you, seeing and watching your  
every movement, your sweet smile.  
So close to Baba, my head on His lap and  
with His consoling hands, carressing my  
forehead. I took Baba's hands and holding  
them close to me I can smell the natural  
sandalwood scent. I told Him, 'Baba, I  
love you, I want you more than ever  
before. Please be with me always and  
forever. I do not know what to do, but I  
am completely dependent upon you. Baba, I  
want you to be mine only, and for me to be  
your's only. You are my everything!' I  
cried out and He wiped my tears away. No  
words spoken. Just a tender, most gentle  
smile of a loving father to His long lost  
child, ----- Then I awoke with tears in my  
eyes. I did not know whether it was just  
a dream or if the Lord had really come.  
But still the room was filled with  
sandalwood scent and His blissful  
vibration. All throughout my life I have  
really felt Baba's divine presence  
physically and mentally, continuously  
guiding me, transforming me into a divine  
loving being.

In the darkest moment to the night,  
I can see His glowing flame,  
Overflowing the room,  
I can feel Bliss,  
I can feel Baba.

- by Av. A. Sampurna



# Africa Update

Since the last issue of "Pranam" we have received photos and reports from the development projects in Ghana and Burkina Faso. We have also been able to send them the remainder of our \$15,000 to match the funds received from the Australian Development Assistance Bureau.

In Ghana construction has begun on the primary health clinic and 190 bags of cement have been purchased and stocked in the village. A cement block maker has been donated. The villagers will work communally to construct the building - as they do on the farm already established as part of the school there.

A hand tiller was donated to the project by AMURTEL Hong Kong Sector and this will greatly improve crop yields and thus bring more financial stability to the project. In a meeting between the chief and villagers and the Sectorial Secretary of Nairobi Sector and Didi Ananda Ketana, the chief expressed his thanks to the workers involved saying that no less than 40 surrounding villages will depend on the medical and health education services our clinic will provide.

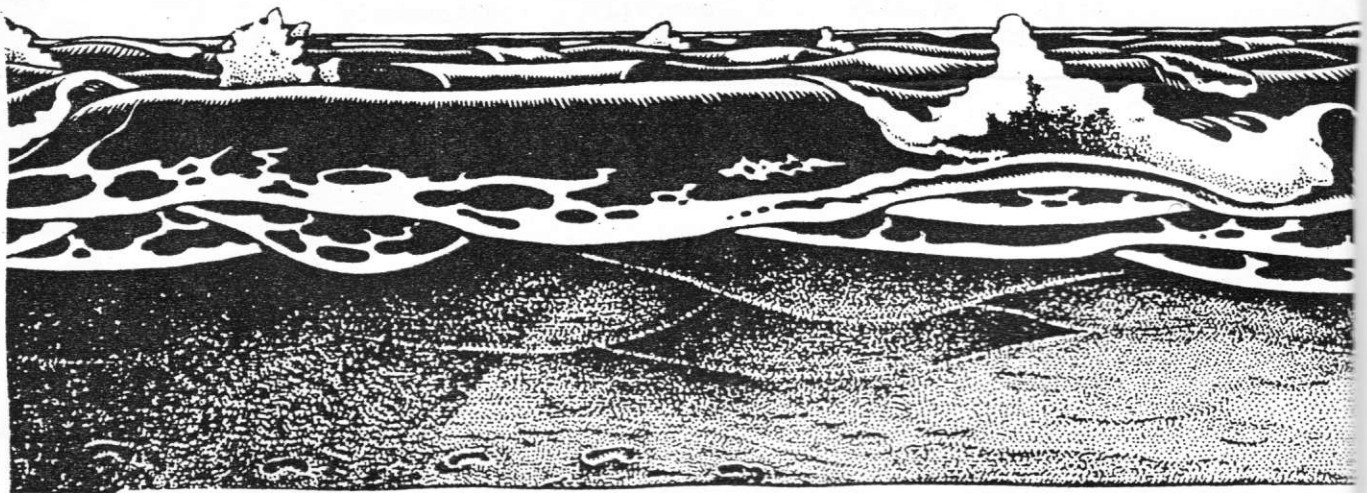
The project still needs medicines as well as financial support. Consequently we are hoping to get further funding from

ADAB in this coming financial year. Didi still urgently needs an English speaking sister to assist her.

In May AMURT signed a working agreement with the government of Burkina Faso. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation issued a press release regarding the agreement and this was broadcast on national radio. The agreement recognises us as a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) and gives us full scope to work in the country as such.

After signing the agreement, Dad Rudreshvarananda left the capital for the drought affected northern province of Oudalan where work has already commenced on the primary health care centre and on agricultural and reafforestation work.

Around the sector fundraising activities are continuing with a number of dinners, concerts and stalls being arranged. We are now preparing our submissions to ADAB for the next lot of funding and this will be submitted in the beginning of October. Regular fundraising events should continue on a long term basis for this work is a very important aspect of our work for humanity as well as being an excellent practice opportunity.





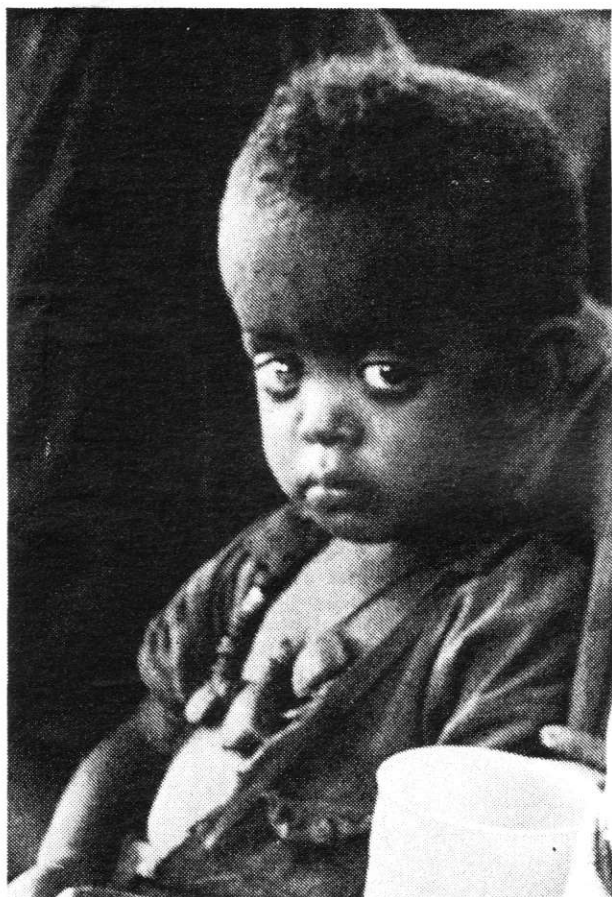


Villagers working on the communal farm in Kwame Annum village, Ghana.



Morning circle time at the Ananda Marga school, Kwame Annum village, Ghana.





Somewhere  
a child walks alone  
Nothing to eat,  
nowhere to rest,  
no-one to hug.

**You can help**  
**Sponsor a life**

I will sponsor a child. Here is my ...

\$20 for the  
first month

\$60 for  
3 months

\$120 for  
6 months

I cannot sponsor but want to donate \$.....  
(enclosed) to help needy children.

Cheques, etc. should be made out to "Ananda Marga  
Children's Homes" and sent to:- 19 Lovel St.,  
Katoomba NSW 2780

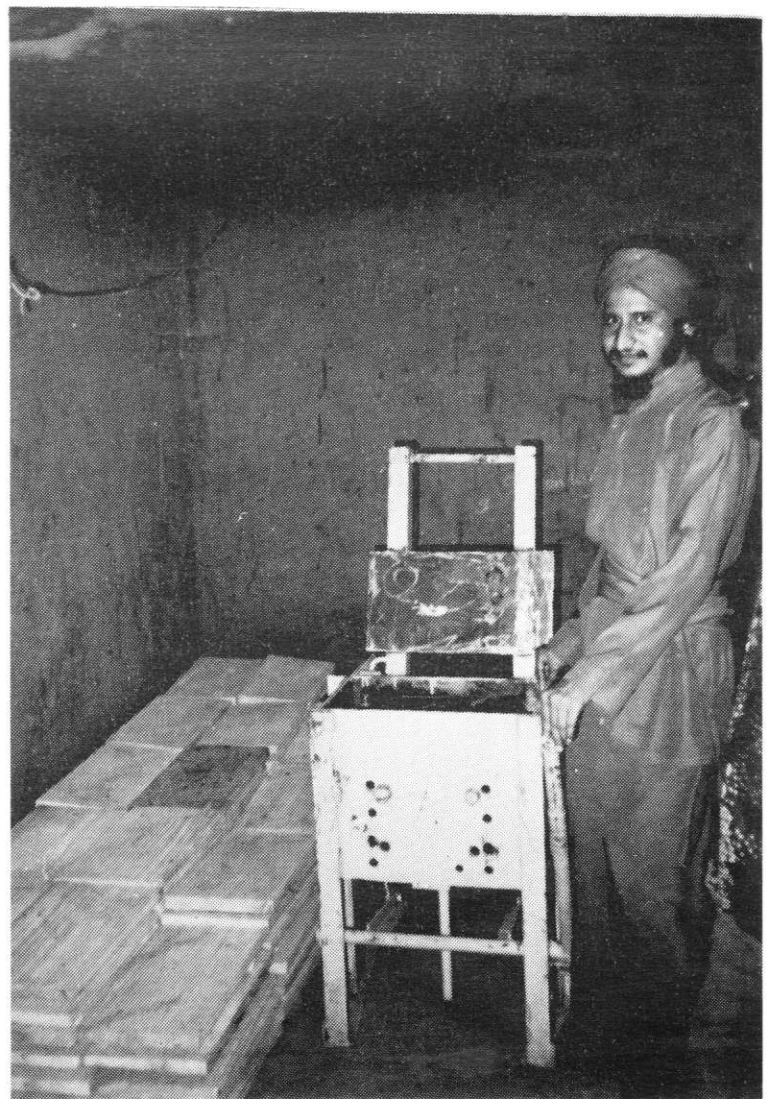
Sponsors name .....  
Address .....  
Postcode.....Phone.....

THANK YOU FOR CARING





Tree planting in Burkina Faso.



Block molding machine for construction of Kwame Annum Healthcare Centre in Ghana



## PRABHATA SAMGIITA RECORDING STUDIO

Since the end of 1982, we have been recording Prabhata Samgiita songs in one of the best sound studios in Calcutta. A total of 1500 songs have been recorded at a cost of \$20,000 (for studio-hire, not including musician's payments).

If we had had that large sum of money in the beginning we could have invested it in our own recording equipment.

However, this is still possible. Baba has given over 3500 songs and is giving more every day. We still have over 1700 songs to record, more than we have recorded in the past 4 years. The studio hire will again run into thousands of dollars.

Therefore, we wish to purchase our own equipment and start our own Prabhata Samgiita studio in our Global Ashram in Calcutta. We wish to invest the money we have to spend in a studio which will be an asset for our organisation. The studio may be used for different recordings - Prabhata Samgiita, school rhymes, bhajans, Baba Nam Kevalam, etc.

Already some equipment has been donated - headphones and mikes in the USA, a mixer and reverb in Tokyo, but we still need the following or money to buy the following: -

1. multi-track tape recorder
2. speakers for play-back and monitoring
3. more effects - echo, graphic equalizer, digital delay etc.
4. a good tape-deck
5. US\$6,000 for air-conditioning and sound-proofing

Please try your best to help. A qualified studio engineer will be coming to Calcutta to help us set up the studio.

This is a RAWA project, but it will of course be available for Margis of all Trades. It is hoped to have the studio completed within the next six months.

For more information concerning compatibility of equipment and/or best ways of getting money to Dada Vidyadha in India safely please contact Dada

Nabhaniilananda, 14 Fourth Avenue,  
Brunswick, Victoria 3056, Australia, Phone  
(03) 386-5640.

Namaskar to all.

Ac. Vidyadhar Brc.,

Ananda Marga,

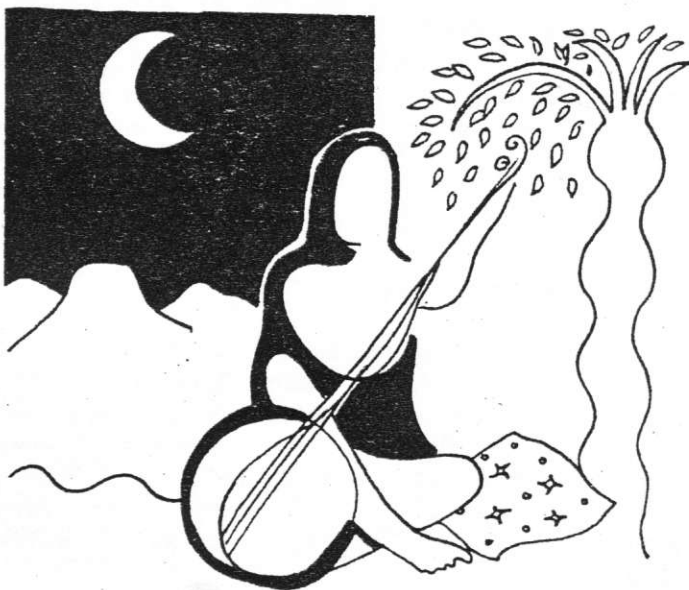
Eastern Metropolitan By-pass,  
Tiljala, Calcutta 700039,  
India.

## TO: ALL ANANDA MARGA TEACHERS

The Vistara Primary School, the Ananda Marga primary school opening in the Lismore area in 1987, has received preliminary approval for Government funding. The school will initially incorporate KG up to Level 3.

Here is an excellent opportunity to teach in our school and also receive a good salary.

Anyone interested in the teaching post can write to Didi Ananda Madhuchanda, 164 Dawson Street, Lismore, NSW 2480 stating their experience and credential.



# System And Speed

Baba once stated that speed without system is dangerous and system without speed is useless. This concise and seemingly simple statement is full of meaning and is a guide for His devotees engaged in the effort to establish His Mission on this planet.

## Speed Without System

In today's world, there is a great deal of speed - a rapid acceleration in technological development, but this development is unbalanced due to the lack of growth in the spiritual arena. This run-away technological development can be dangerous because it is not occurring within a proper system. The development is in the hands of people who are not moralists, those who are without a moral and spiritual practice (system) to guide them. Hence, we witness a world where billions of dollars goes into the stockpiling of nuclear weapons while millions of people are dying of starvation and disease. This situation is just one result of "speed without system".

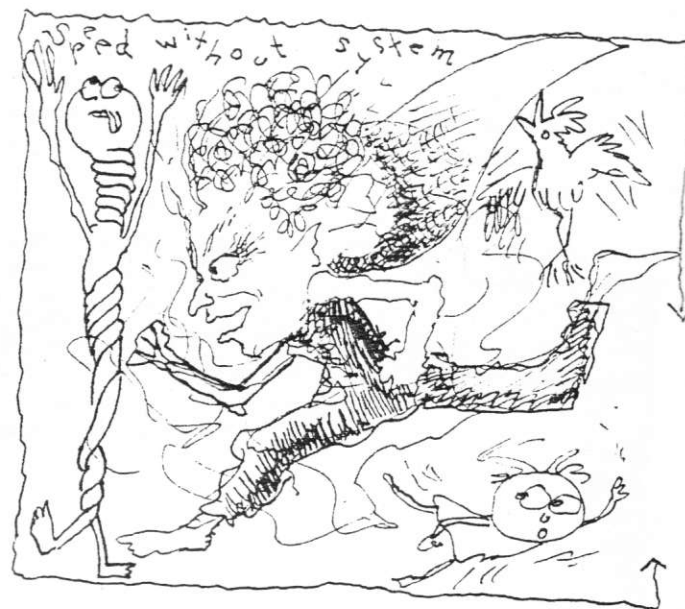
In our individual and collective lives, to move with speed is valuable only if our movement is guided by His system. Baba has given us the system of 16 Points and His organisational system as the proper media through which we can express all of our potentialities and move with speed towards our twin goals of self-realization and the establishment of a universal spiritually-based society.

## System Without Speed

On the other hand, system without speed is useless. Baba has given the system in order for us to achieve our goals as stated above. However, even Baba's system will not be fully effective, without speed. A lethargic or lazy sadhaka can never achieve self-realization.

The urgent need of change in our world - for which He has come, can never be realised without great speed and determination.

- by Avtika Ananda Madhuchanda



# Home Is Where The Heart Is

This was my third visit to India to be physically with Baba. The urge to go hit me very hard, so hard that I felt nothing else was so important for me at that time. Looking back, I am conscious that from the moment that I made the determination to go, all the obstacles to my going began to be solved and everything flowed very rapidly to the point of actually being there with Him.

Although these days we are aware that Baba is more withdrawn from His Margiis than previously in the ordinary sense, I quickly discovered that despite this, something else was happening. Through the sweet vibration created in the garden singing Prabhat Samgiit while waiting for Baba, desire for His presence was intense and ideation flowed. When He appeared, the subtle feelings of love were stronger than ever, and the internal dialogue was enjoyable. I knew I was communicating everything I wanted to say to Baba, and I knew with certainty that He was responding. In my Sadhana too, concentration was steady after the initial effort to direct the internal flow towards Him. So delightfully sweet was my stay there, that it is certainly true to say, that for us Margiis, being in Baba's garden, or anywhere with Him, is heaven on earth.

Of course, Baba is Tantric Guru. He likes us to experience all sorts of extremes, so I had some hard times too. One time, a psychic battle raged in my mind for three nights and two days. It seemed as though all weaknesses were confronting me at once, and that I would never be able to overcome them in this lifetime. It was only by His Grace that I came through this terrible storm and was able to feel that I can do nothing but await His mercy to remove the suffering, in His time and show me again His light which inspires and gives the patience and desire to persist. But seeing Him again makes one feel full of courage to go on overcoming all the things that come

between Him and that inner self which craves that Love so much.

Many wonderful things happened during the two months I was there, I would love to share a few of these things.

Soon after my arrival just prior to DMC, Baba began holding meetings for workers and Margiis at His house in Tiljila. I was lucky enough to be called to Bhukti Pradhan meeting. The room upstairs was full of people from all over India and the world. Before Baba came I was looking around at the faces there, they seemed strong and clear, faces of character, I felt that they were very good people and I felt proud to be a part of this Family.

When Baba came, His mood was very civil, very cordial. Sitting in front of us, He turned to GS Dada and said simply, "I think they know their targets, and they will overcome shy-complex to do the work."

His words had a profound effect on me. I felt He was speaking directly to me. Then I realised that all those good people are capable of doing so many great things, but that we are all held back by our inhibitions. Then and there, I began to feel my own inner potential in a way that I had never before experienced it. Such a fresh, new feeling devoid of any ego. It showed me that to do Baba's work properly, one has to act from this inner love and project it outwards.

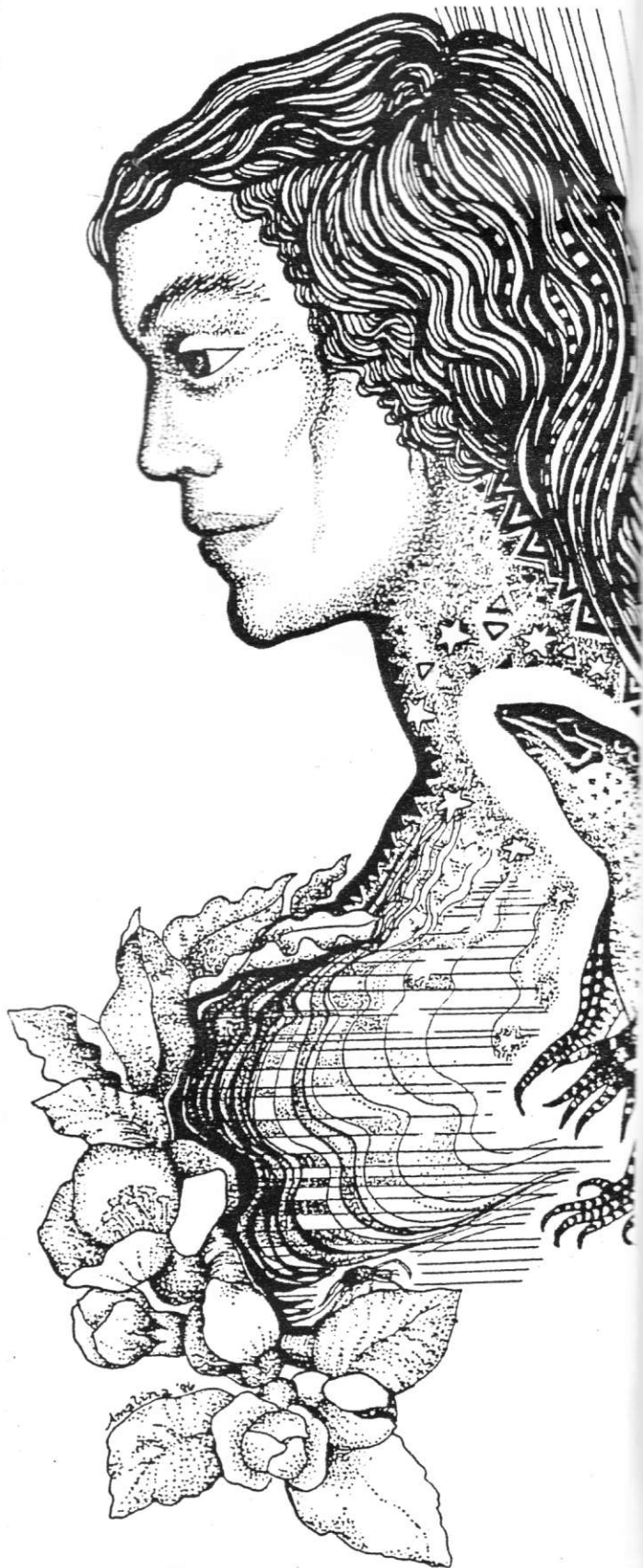
Then the DMC time came. The whole scene at Tiljila was just incredible as the pandal went up and people arrived from all over India and the world. Somehow they found themselves little spaces for their stay. Many were obviously old hands, quite familiar with procedures and the crowds. By the first day I was fairly overwhelmed, but enjoying myself anyway. I did Kaoshikii and guard duty before Baba that day. When He arrived for the first Darshan there was a sense of awe and breathtaking hush in the whole pandal.

On the second day we again crowded

into the pandal four hours before the appointed time for Baba to come, going out only to attend our trade meetings as they were called over the P.A. system. The noise, the people all squeezed up against each other, the whole atmosphere charged with activity and excitement was just amazing to be in. The time came for Baba to arrive, we waited, and waited, then G.S. Dada stood on the stage area and announced that Baba would not be coming, but that He had invited everyone to stay for another day of DMC. There was a moment's silence, then a huge collective sigh of disappointment, then acceptance as DC proceeded. That night we waited a little more desperately than before, then again, when it was quite late G.S. Dada came and said Baba was again not coming. "Lord's whim," I thought and felt quite dazed - I knew there must be some reason. I kept wondering, -- Why? What was His purpose in holding Himself from us, when we were all gathered together in such a state of anticipation. The next day everyone was a bit subdued, probably like me, wondering what Baba was wanting of us. Some time before the afternoon Darshan time, the thought suddenly hit me; "Baba doesn't want us to just look at Him with our eyes. He wants us to really feel Him in our hearts. He is not a show man. He presents Himself to us very simply, very sweetly, as our own Beloved One. He doesn't want anything false between us, only Love."

When He came on that third day, the atmosphere was different, His absence had wrought that change, it was very much more sweet and devotional. Then when He blessed the newly married couples and gave His DMC talk that night, He was so loving and beautiful, so strong and fatherly, our devotion reached a climax. During the Samgachadvam mantra, He appeared to me suddenly as Sadguru, Cosmic Lord after His Mudra. My Anahat Cakra was resounding as though struck by a thunderbolt, blissful waves overtook me and kept me submerged in Him after He had gone for some time.

- By Giita Devi





# A Visit

This visit to Ba'ba', my third in six years, for some reason seemed to me more significant than the others - although each would have made some impact on my spiritual progress.

Somehow, more than ever, I experienced the feeling of being part of a great Cosmic play and although I didn't understand Ba'ba's mysterious ways, I felt that everyone of His moods and even His absences (when we were waiting in His meeting room) carried some impact and had a profound effect on us.

From the moment that one decides (who decides ? ... ) to go and see Him, one's whole life seems to take on a new dimension. My biggest trial this time was struggling to overcome the fear of not being able to make it to Calcutta, apprehension that we might be caught by the police and sent back. So when we found ourselves in the taxi headed towards Calcutta, I experienced such an overwhelming joy and relief. Here in Calcutta and Ba'ba' is here !

After spending a night at the Ramakrsna Mission, where we were treated to a grand tour of the rather opulent premises - an unexpected honor - (Ba'ba's little treat ?) we made our way to Tiljala at the crack of dawn and were very happy to find ourselves at last in the heart of Margiiland and to recognise many familiar faces, some from as far away as Iceland. That very day we attended Ba'ba's darshan as it was Sunday. People crammed the darshan hall to capacity and when there was no more room, still more people kept arriving and squeezing in. It was horrendously hot and uncomfortable, but somehow when Ba'ba' walked into the room in a glorious pink shirt, a great wave of love and murmurs of appreciation swept over the entire hall and the discomforts were forgotten as we were too busy watching His every gesture and expression as He launched into a discourse in Bengali. The discourse was on philology which could have been very dry but Ba'ba's

humourous remarks and mimicks brought the house down several times and we laughed with the rest even though we didn't understand the joke.

This year's DMC, the second one I have attended, was quite different from the previous one and yet it was just as great. The previous DMC which I attended was at Ananda Nagar in January 1983, so the weather was cooler and more bearable and the surroundings more attractive. Perhaps there were more people - at least there appeared to be more because there was more space. In Tiljala in June, with the intense heat and humidity it is more of a physical ordeal. However one becomes accustomed to being in a constant sauna and dealing with the discomforts of sitting for long hours on the hard floors amongst other things.

The collective spiritual flow carries one in such a way that none of those things seem to matter after a while. Ba'ba's closeness is constantly in our awareness so that our days seem to gravitate around Ba'ba's movements. And, of course, there was the added excitement of the possibility of being called to Ba'ba's house for reporting. Nobody ever knew when this was likely to happen and He kept us guessing all the way. You just had to keep your ears to the ground (or tuned into the continuous bellowing of the loudspeakers) and be ready to jump up and rush to Ba'ba's house when the call came.

I was fortunate enough to attend four reporting sessions. The first one was for Bhukti Pradhans; the second time I was ushered in by mistake with the Delhi Sector Bhukti Pradhans and I remained there, trying to be inconspicuous, so that nobody actually told me to get out; the third time was straight after DMC when all the LFTs and all the BPs from all over the world were crammed into the darshan hall for a very short session. There was a bit of drama when we all had to vacate the hall in a great hurry as Ba'ba' was on His way out. I managed to hang back and was

quite close to Him as He came down the stairs.

The last session I was involved in was reporting for AMURT and AMURTEL. Ba'ba' was in a jovial mood but made it

quite clear that our efforts were not nearly sufficient in the face of global needs.

Sundara

## DMC Impressions

There are three things that seemed different about this DMC to the last one I attended in January. Needless to say, the May heat of Calcutta greatly affected the atmosphere and generally added a bit more intensity.

The second aspect was seeing Baba in the organisational role rather than as sweet Guru. As AMPS Bhukti Pradhan, I attended a couple of BP meetings with Baba present. For the first time I witnessed Him in a serious and sometimes, scolding mood. Nevertheless, to me Baba still seemed so loving and beautiful. He plays His roles so well, even when being heavy, the Divinity that comes from the perfection of His role playing out- shines the actual role Baba is projecting. It's a blessing to see.

Lastly, I utilized my time there much more in sadhana and consequently, got a deeper spiritual benefit from DMC. Baba has said how short our time is and to utilize it properly. We get to see Baba so little and with few commitments to responsibilities at DMC, it's a perfect opportunity for maximum sadhana.

Therefore, instead of wasting time chatting or sleeping (as many did because of the heat), extra sadhana was done, especially on Dhyana. This brought both deeper sadhana and more experiences with Baba externally. One afternoon I felt the desire to see if Baba was walking, despite the heat and being early for His walk. To my delight I found not only Baba walking but also no one else there. So by myself

I did kiirtan to Baba. Soon others came but still it was wonderful that short time with just Baba.

It's become very difficult to get close contact with Baba and except at reporting, I realised the only other way would be to get a place in the Tandava competition!

So despite it being Ekadashii and being sick, I went in it determined to get a place. By His Grace I got third and thus received a prize from Baba. How sweet it was. I was beaming with joy as I went up to meet my beloved Baba. He was radiating bliss and joked with me "Do you want this prize?", holding a trophy in His hand. "Yes, Baba", and blissfully He gave it to me. Of course, I was thinking He was the prize I wanted, and Baba knew it too!

With His system and with speed, we must be victorious in our individual and collective goals. Baba Himself is setting the examples for us through His systematic life and the tremendous speed with which He is working. Let us follow His example.

By Narada Muni

# Diary Recollections

For the lover, what is the primary thing ? To experience the Beloved of course. And what is the next best thing ? To hear of the Beloved. It can turn the pangs of separation into sweetness and accelerate the flow of the mind back towards its goal. With this in mind here are a few memories and realisations from my diary recorded during a recent trip to see Ba'ba'.

He now wants all Bhukti Pradhanas for regular reporting at DMC time. This Grace has a twofold effect - one, we have the chance to come close to Him physically and hence our internal Ba'ba' comes much closer; and two, through the spiritual impetus created, the world benefits as any desire to serve (and our capacity to serve the way He wishes) becomes greater.

My first glimpse of Him was at night from the roof of the ashram at Tiljala. It looks down on Ba'ba's house with a nice view of His balcony where He walks in the evening. I first heard the tapping of His cane and with each tap waves of bliss washed me. Then came His shadow and then He Himself. It is hard to find words to describe the sweetness. Back and forth He walked, first in view and then disappearing, then appearing again, representing the crests and troughs of Cosmic Consciousness.

What a paradise - a moonlit night, lotus pond, soft lights - and silence except for the sound of a handful of us singing Prabhat Samgiit to Him. Then His guard bought a chair and put it in full sight of all of us. We anticipated that maybe He would sit and we could enjoy each other some more. At last He did so and gave a long and loving Namaskar. I thought - "He loves the singing". Then He drank from a cup and with His head back and lips raised I felt He was taking in all of the creation. The bliss became deeper. I doubt if my feet touched the ground from that moment on.

During His Birthday Darshan I felt so close to Him. I was thinking "Ba'ba' I

want to give everything to You" and at that moment He turned with a loving smile and nodded. I thought "How Your fingers are like the gum leaves dangling". He dangled them even more in such a lovely rhythm.

After darshan I suddenly felt lifted up on a wave and carried along at breakneck speed around and through throngs of people till I found myself coming to a halt at Ba'ba's gate where His car would pass. There were very few of us as He drove nearer and gave Namaskar. Everything disappeared except the two of us. Slowly the car turned and He gave Namaskar again and beamed more and more with delight, pressing Himself back into the seat and twisting His head to catch a last glimpse. Needless to say I was in heaven. I recall an entry in my diary - "can't handle lunch due to heat and bliss - bliss more likely".

Very soon the pressure of the organisation made itself felt - targets and reporting and the extremely serious vibration of Ba'ba' as Parthasarathi. For me it enhanced the love.

DMC time came. Ba'ba' would give darshan twice a day for three days and the vibration (and the crowds!) built up.

Time began to disappear and there became only sadhana day and night, measured by darshans, duties and calls of "Ba'ba' is calling! Ba'ba' is calling!" as we all went through the drama of thundering down the stairs to reporting only to find that He was whetting our appetite yet another time. I perceived that every thing, every instant and every event - tiny or large, existed only because my Ba'ba' wanted to give me the chance to experience more and more devotion. Every apparent delay, every long wait (it seems that all of Ananda Marga in India is about waiting!) each so-called set back and disappointment, each state of clash and even being sick became a gift of love from my Beloved as I could see His Hand in it all. "Paradoxical to experience

extreme ecstasy regardless of the ups and downs but there it is ..." - I wrote one day, obviously not too blissed out to hold a pen !

Being comfortably sandwiched (all the Westerners together) in the huge tent of thousands waiting for Ba'ba' is quite an experience. After a long wait, roars of "Param Pita Ba'ba' Ki" would split the air and the vibration became crisp with anticipation. Then He would come smiling - moving slowly, turning this way and that for us, dressed sometimes in white, or cream, and sometimes in pale pink (He looks like a fresh bloom in pink). I found the more I utilised my time in sadhana the closer I was to Him.

All the Didis and Dadas were so kind to us during our stay. We were as new as infants at the game and they delighted in our antics and really there were some hilarious moments.

If anyone feels inspired to come forward to be a Bhukti Pradhana and do His work I wholeheartedly encourage you. Such a chance cannot be found in many, many lifetimes. All that is needed is a sincere heart - nothing else.

To finish with there is just one more impression to share. The Prabhat Samgiit dancing especially on His birthday was breathtaking. He sat so composed and tranquil as the dancers hovered around Him. Their eyes and hands and actually every movement expressed the aching attraction of the devotee for God.

It would have been no shock to see the curtains of Maya part at His Feet - the entire room absorbed into the Cosmos in one fell swoop.

BABA KRPAHI KEVALAM

Gaotamii

## To Baba With Our Baby

Some would call it bravery, others foolhardiness - it was probably a combination of both. But worthwhile it certainly was. It ? What is "it" ? Bhavanii and I travelling with Kavita - nine months old at the time, to India in the middle of the summer season to see Ba'ba'.

We arrived a week before DMC to discover Taraka, Jayashrii and Miira along with little Krsna. It was nice to be able to share with another family in the same circumstances.

On her first two glimpses of Ba'ba', Kavita did little but cry. However after that she hardly made a peep and sat quietly or slept through darshan after darshan.

The first darshan we attended was the regular Sunday one with many people crowding into the not so big DC room in Ba'ba's house at Tiljala. It was stifling hot and stuffy, we were squashed and

waited a long time. Yet despite so many discomforts I found that sitting with Kavita asleep in my arms, listening to Ba'ba' and watching Him, to be so sweet that I became completely suffused with His love and beauty - on all levels (He wore the most wonderful pink shirt).

Time after time I found that by stilling my mind and releasing any expectations at all, I could experience Ba'ba' in a very personal, nourishing and satisfying way - whether it was the smallest glimpse on field walk; or Him appearing at the end of His balcony framed by the gothic arch, then turning and gone again; or in a long darshan with thousands of others around.

Spiritual intensity aside, the mundane I found even more demanding than is usual in India, as there was Kavita to take into consideration at every turn. For Bhavanii, still breast feeding, this was even more the case. On the other side were



the many bonuses - Kavita was an almost constant centre of attention with comments, enquiries and affection being poured on her by people of all ages, Acaryas and family people alike. She lapped up the attention but got overwhelmed at times by the force of its expression. A large number of overseas Margiis attended this DMC and there were five other couples with babies apart from us. There were no real facilities for family people. This was particularly hard on the sisters and a number of the babies got sick from the moving around and lack of space at the sister's quarters. So after much struggle a nice space was created at the brother's quarters for families to stay. At the end we got together and decided to do something about creating permanent facilities for overseas families at DMC - a plan happily approved by the General Secretary who finds the same problems recurring every DMC.

I enjoyed very much the gathering together in such a small area of many thousands of Margiis, Acaryas and His ever present proximity. I felt like this was a spiritual oasis, an environment of strong spiritual values where the culture, ideology, devotional sentiment and sweetness was a glimpse of what can be for society. Complete support for and acceptance and approval of spirituality is something that does not come from our environment and to experience it in the mini world of DMC at Tiljala felt very strengthening and helped me to regain a spiritual perspective. This change of perspective is one of the things I value about a trip to see Ba'ba' - like shaking loose most of the mental structures I hold my ego together with, allowing new ideas, ways of seeing, and changes to take place.

Attending Bhukti Pradhana reporting with Ba'ba' was very exciting and I got to see Him in different ways than I had experienced before. The strictness and seriousness with which He runs the organisation and the lightness, playfulness, the liila also. The thrill of being so close to Ba'ba' and maybe being asked to report. He was very pleased with the report of one brother from Guatemala City and beckoned him forward to be

blessed. I felt blessed also and feel He did that for all of us there. Due to various factors Bhavanii could not attend reporting until later, but the time she did, Kavita got to be there also!

We applied to have our marriage blessed and sat nervously waiting on DMC night, Kavita asleep with another sister. But after Prabhat Samgit, Ba'ba' started straight away with the discourse - i.e. no blessing and ... Kavita started crying. Bhavanii went to her and eventually had to leave the discourse with her. She consequently missed His mudra. However, by His Grace, she was able to see Him on a walk afterwards practically by herself and after the frustration and the tears she experienced an incredible closeness to Him.

The next day the blessings went ahead, Kavita slept and the moment of truth arrived (amazingly for we were at the end of the list of thirty couples) with us kneeling before Ba'ba'. He took our garland, held both our hands and gave the blessing. It was such a special, precious moment - I felt overwhelmed with excitement. As He gave the garland back He said to Bhavanii "Here you keep this with you little girl", and we both got an incredibly strong sense that He had included Kavita, although He did not say as much in words.

Kavita had been getting a cough and runny nose, but after DMC she seemed to radically weaken and we started to become alarmed. Her life force seemed to be at a low ebb and homeopathics were not helping. We decided to visit the doctor the following day when who should turn up at 2am to our room but Sukalpa with a doctor! He prescribed and gave us some medicines which we administered after suspiciously scrutinising the labels. Almost immediately she seemed to pick up and the next day was 100% better. She remained well, but by the time we had returned to Singapore Bhavanii was worn out and began to get sick. On our train travels in India there was a constant fan club in attendance for Kavita - dotting children would take her and play, which was just as well as we had little energy to keep her entertained for the entire time.

We had planned to stay a month, but our tiredness, the heat (42°) and the feeling on both our parts that we had had a very high quality experience led us to return early.

I experienced being more open, awake and relaxed around Ba'ba' than ever before, and felt I had been given so much by Him. Bhavanii had her heart touched by Him in so many ways also - and so I am sure did Kavita. She seems to have lost a certain frenetic energy which

characterised her prior to the trip. There is a change in her, hard to separate from the lightning growth and evolution of a baby, but she feels to be more mellow.

We are both happy to have taken her and will certainly do it again - but perhaps not in the summer !

Vinay

## My Lonely Beloved (Esoteric Love)

I used to wait for Him (to come to me)  
Until I realised He waits for me.  
Waiting, waiting, my lonely Beloved waits for only me.  
So I run to embrace Him  
To merge and tearfully vow never to be separated again  
Like Radha and Krsna we lovers love  
Caring and wanting nothing but each other  
And serving with such young romantic hearts.

But Maya gets jealous of me.  
Skilfully I am distracted back into the external world  
Away from my Vrindavan and my lonely Beloved  
Forgetting Him, becoming deaf to His cries  
Maya's veil has made me numb to Him !

But Love is stronger than even Maya  
And I run back into His waiting loving arms.  
He is always so happy to see me  
Because I am His only true Love.  
My love is all He desires (of me).  
So happy, blissful and satisfied He becomes.  
And so do I.

Narada Muni  
15/7/86

# Re-Establishing Ananda Marga On Guam

## The First 30 Days

All of us have some thirst for adventure and most of us get opportunities in our lives to take a step into a new career, a new community, or even a new culture. After twelve years as a general margii in the USA I now found myself doing all of these at one time as a new acarya sent to reestablish Ananda Marga on Guam. You no doubt noticed I have used the word Reestablish, because in 1978 through 1980, Dada Mokeshvarananda (then Dada Mayatiita) worked long and hard to establish a unit on Guam. His past efforts even after a six year gap are still very much apparent here on the little tropical island of Guam. Here is the story of my first 30 days.

Before describing events and experiences, a short history is in order. For about 4 months before I received my posting, I am told that Baba started asking about Guam. Baba on at least one occasion even took time to talk in detail about Guam's history. He asked at one time if there weren't some Margiis on Guam. When told by those present that there were none, Baba quickly corrected them, saying there were Margiis on Guam and an acarya should be posted there at the earliest possible date. Later after an intensive search, I found Baba was right about Guam and its old Margiis, one of whom has meditated every day for all these years!

All of you know how few the acaryas are in total number, so Baba's priority on Guam must really be of importance. In fact it seems that my arrival on Guam was part of Baba's specific planning, as we shall see.

Upon finishing acarya training in India, several wonderful opportunities and experiences took place as I arrived in Calcutta just before the January DMC. For a long time

Baba gave personal contact to me and also another

American Dada just after we finished acarya training rather than much much later after working in the field.

This was the second opportunity in my life to be alone with Baba and really is a story of its own. Baba was wonderful blend of seriousness and love and when I asked just before leaving if I could touch his feet, He nodded assent with a sweet smile. Really, to be so close to Him, touching his feet with my hands and forehead was my happiest moment in many years.

Now other details of my personal time with Baba are worth telling, but I will save them for another article. I do want to mention though that it was just as I was entering Baba's room that I was finally given my new acarya name by my trainer and Baba's personal assistant. Everything happened so fast that a half minute later when Baba asked me my name, I mispronounced it in a pretty comical way. Baba didn't react fortunately as I already felt insecure enough!

This name, Manibhusan, which means "Holder of the Jewel of Eternity", I later discovered to be a name as well known on Guam as Smith or Jones is in the USA! Guam's native language, Chamorro, is connected to the Malaya group of languages and has retained many sanskrit words still intact in both pronunciation and meaning including my Sanskrit name! Local people on Guam do a classic double-take when they hear the name and talking about this surprising connection with ancient India is a beautiful way for me to show the applicability of Ananda Marga philosophy to the people of the Micronesian islands. This was my first introduction to Baba's surprises for me on Guam.

Later, just before leaving India, I again was given a rare chance to be in Baba's room as he formally approved my posting. He gave a brief but

comprehensive overview of Guam's geological and cultural history, all of which I have since verified through my own research. He really is amazing.

A few weeks later, I found myself in the air flying into Guam's beautiful new international airport. I am sure you can appreciate the mix of feelings going through me as we landed and I cleared customs at 10.00 p.m. on March 4th. Excitement, anticipation, and no small amount of trepidation all were surging through my mind. Well, two nights and thirty six hours later I was still in the airport having had absolutely no success in contacting any of the old Margiis whose names I had. In addition, I found that Guam has no YMCA or other cheap and temporary shelter anywhere on the island. I resolved to remain positive but was wondering what to do. Staying in the airport had lost its charm a long time back!

Having fasted on the 5th, I struck out on foot on the morning of the 6th to buy fruit at a supermarket about 2 miles away. As I was returning to the airport, wondering what would happen next, I saw a rain shower coming in very quickly. Just then, after no success in hitching a ride earlier some people picked me up just as a real downpour hit. Being curious, these kind folks asked what I was doing and upon hearing my story said I could stay with them until I found some of the old Margiis I was trying to locate.

Relieved and thankful to them and God's grace, I finally left the Guam International Airport and started my work.

These first two weeks that followed were the most rigorous test of my character and mental strength I had ever been through. Although I was making progress in my contact work, the living situation I was in was far from satisfactory. With four smokers and twelve hours of extra loud television daily, you can imagine my situation. After about ten days, the Guam bus system stopped for lack of funding and I found my work brought to a complete dead stop. No phone, no transportation, and I had long overstayed the hospitality of the family

with whom I was staying. After several more days of trying to travel by hitch hiking and using the neighbors telephone to try to contact more people, and literally sitting outside the house to avoid the television, I became completely depressed. Though I knew that only by meeting people would I ever solve my living situation, I had no will to do so. I was literally praying to Baba to make some solution apparent.

The next morning I renewed my resolve and took a determination to get out and at least be doing something. I decided that if nothing could be done, I would hitch to the small, small villages in the rural south part of the island. If necessary, I told myself, I would sleep in the open under the sloping coconut trees, or anywhere I could.

Imagine my feelings when a little later I am given a ride by a man that I had met briefly a few days earlier who after a few minutes of discussion about my situation is offering to let me stay in his apartment. Now not only this, but because he was going to Australia for three weeks, I was given use of the apartment for free, use of the telephone for local calls, and use of his automobile until he returned! By Baba's grace, I learned firsthand how good and moral people with spiritual values are everywhere to help us if we are willing to take a few risks.

Now the work on Guam is moving fast. In this first 30 days, I have begun a yoga class with ten students. A second yoga class is planned for May as part of the University continuing education program. We held our first dharmacakra last week on March 31, with two of those long-sought old Margiis attending! A formal meditation class should also begin in late May as I found many people who are interested in Yoga, meditation, and self-discovery. I firmly believe that a thriving unit will form within only six months. I am also beginning to formulate plans for an AMURT fundraising drive for late summer. By September, I hope to have a rented Jagrti. I can see clearly that Baba wants Ananda Marga here and will guarantee that I have scope to continue to



work even if conditions seem stacked against it.

I do want to mention that the kind of internal growth and happiness I hoped to find in acarya life, I have found in full measure. In spite of the uncertainties, I enjoy this life immensely. For its part, Guam is a beautiful tropical island with a warm, friendly and increasingly cosmopolitan society of island cultures, American, Filipino, Japanese, Indian and other ethnic groups.

In a few months, we hope to be able to welcome Ananda Margis to our own

Jagrti for visits and vacations. Also if you have suggestions on products I can import for sale on Guam, please let me know. Guam is a duty free port for any products made in the world. Well, There's my story to date for reestablishing Ananda Marga on Guam. Come see us soon and as we say on Guam, "HAFA ADAI".

- by Dada Manibhusana



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BOX 264  
Goulburn, NSW 2580



Food from Berlin Sector being distributed in Kwame Annum village, Ghana.







New jagrti in West Leederville, Perth.



Sister's jagrti in Bayswater, Perth.